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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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January 11, 2002

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION  
ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations be extended to September 1, 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

The Commission on Human Relations (Commission) was established pursuant to Chapter 2.78 of the Los Angeles County Code and Government Code Section 50262. The Commission's mission is to foster harmonious and equitable intergroup relations, empower communities and institutions, and promote an informed and inclusive multicultural society. In carrying out its duties, the Commission is to:

- A. Engage in research and education to lessen and eliminate prejudice and its effect, and foster attitudes among the various groups within its jurisdiction which lead to civic peace and intergroup understanding;
- B. Develop and administer programs and plans designed to promote equal opportunity and full acceptance of all persons in the community in all aspects of community life;
- C. Cooperate with and assist in coordinating on a County-wide basis the work of those agencies and groups which are engaged in fostering mutual understanding and respect among all population groups in the County which are attempting to discourage discriminatory practices against any such group or any of its members;
- D. Cooperate with any County department in identifying and ameliorating human relations problems with which they may be concerned;

- E. From time to time, recommend measures, including legislation, to the Board of Supervisors, which will serve to improve human relations within the County.

The Commission consists of fifteen members, three nominated by each Supervisor. Meetings should be held twice a month. Members receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed \$75 in any one month.

For fiscal year 2000-01, the Commission's expenditures were approximately \$1.7 million, including 20 full-time staff and approximately \$600,000 for services and supplies. The Commission receives some grant revenue and does some fundraising. However, the Commission's expenditures are almost entirely funded with Net County Cost.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

The Commission's priorities support the County's Strategic Plan, focusing on organization effectiveness, building conflict management capability in cities and schools and developing a comprehensive hate crime management system.

During this review period, the Commission focused on conflict management and community unification. For example, it created the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative (HCVAAI), a network of community-based organizations. The network holds public events to support hate crime victims and advocates for preventative measures.

The Commission also implemented a state of the art information management and communication system. This system enhanced the public's understanding of and access to Commission programs, strategies, publications and other information.

The Commission also created two initiatives, School Intergroup Conflict and the County-wide Public Education Campaign, that addressed the increasing hate violence among youth. These initiatives created a more comprehensive approach to addressing human relation issues in schools. For example, the Public Education Campaign provided youth with human relation workshops at various sites and obtained nearly \$500,000 for advertising at the schools.

In addition, to celebrate diversity and honor effective human relation programs and practices, the Commission coordinates Cultural Diversity Month and the John Anson Ford Awards.

In the future, the Commission will continue to provide intergroup relations planning assistance to member cities through the continued growth and development of the Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium. It will also promote human relation programs and skills curriculum at County schools via the School Intergroup Conflict

Initiative. In addition, it will continue to provide technical assistance, education and training services on human relation issues to community-based organizations, schools, corporations and County departments.

Please call me if you have any questions, or have your staff call DeWitt Roberts at (213) 974-0301.

JTM:DR:JS  
Attachments

c: Susanne Cumming, Chair, Human Relations Commission  
Khahn Nguyen, Manager, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
REVIEW COMMENTS

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission. **CONCUR**

**Section 1. Relevancy.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission continues to foster harmonious and equitable intergroup relations, empower communities and institutions and promote an informed and inclusive multicultural society. **RELEVANT**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is scheduled to meet twice a month. It held a total of 63 meetings (87.5%) during the last three years with average attendance of ten of the fifteen commissioners. **SATISFACTORY**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The Commission's accomplishments include the following:

- Created the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative (HCVAAI), a network of community-based organizations. The network holds public events to support hate crime victims and advocates for preventative measures.
- Deployed a state of the art information management and communication technologies system. This system enhanced the public's understanding and access to Commission programs, strategies, publications and other informational services.
- Created two initiatives, School Intergroup Conflict and the County-wide Public Education Campaign that addressed the increasing hate violence among youth. These initiatives created a more comprehensive approach to addressing human relation issues in schools. For example, the Public Education Campaign provided youth with human relation workshops at various sites and obtained nearly \$500,000 for advertising at the schools.

- Coordinated Cultural Diversity Month and the John Anson Ford Awards to celebrate diversity and honor effective human relations programs and practices, and outstanding individual achievement.
- Developed a computer mapping initiative to monitor and provide information to consortium member cities and institutions regarding changes in community demographics, income and employment levels that may help explain where hate crime and intergroup conflict may occur.
- Published the annual Hate Crime Report, as well as brochures on Human Relation issues. **SIGNIFICANT**

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission will continue to provide intergroup relations planning assistance to member cities through the continued growth and development of the Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium. It will also promote human relation programs and skills curriculum at County schools via the School Intergroup Conflict Initiative. In addition, it will continue to provide technical assistance, education and training services on human relation issues to community-based organizations, schools, corporations and County departments. **RELEVANT**

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

The Commission's fiscal year 2000-01 expenditures were approximately \$1.7 million with a Net County Cost of \$1.675 million. The difference was funded through grants and fund raising. **WARRANTED**

**Section 7. Recommendation:**

**THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS BE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2006.**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Commissioner	Appointed By	9/30/1998	12/31/1998	3/31/1999	6/30/1999	9/30/1999	12/31/1999	3/31/2000	6/30/2000	9/30/2000	12/31/2000	3/31/2001	6/30/2001	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter		5	5	5	6	6	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	63	
Donna Bojarsky	Yaroslavsky	3	2	4	4	2	1	2	4	3	2	2	0	29	46%
Morris Kight	Yaroslavsky	5	5	5	6	5	3	4	6	5	4	5	5	58	92%
Rev. Zedar E. Broadous	Yaroslavsky	3	0	0	2	2	3	4	6	4	0	2	3	29	46%
Kathay Feng	Molina												2	2	100%
Thomas A. Saenz	Molina												1	1	100%
Ruben Lizardo	Molina			1	2	3	4	3	2	3	5	4	1	28	53%
Roberto Lovato	Molina	4	3	3	6	6	4	5	4	1	1	1		38	67%
Jane Small	Molina	3	4	4	4	4								19	70%
Eleanor R. Montano	Knabe	4	5	5	6	6	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	61	97%
Lea Ann King	Knabe	4	4	4	6	3	3	5	5	3	2	4	4	47	75%
Susanne L. Cumming	Knabe	5	5	4	6	6	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	62	98%
Dr. Hay Yang	Burke	4	2	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	4	6	47	75%
Albert DeBlanc	Burke	3	3	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	19	30%
Adrian Dove	Burke	3	2	4	4	3	2	2	1	0	4	3	5	33	52%
Ray Bartlett	Antonovich	5	5	4	6	6	4	5	6	4	5	5	6	61	97%
Vito Cannella	Antonovich	3	5	5	6	3	4	4	5	3	4	3	6	51	81%
Judy Coffman	Antonovich	0	0	3	4	4	4	5	6	4	5	4	5	44	70%
Joseph Wong	Antonovich	0	1											1	10%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>630</b>	

Average Attendance per Meeting ----: **10.0**